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31 December 1958

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

Validity Study of NIE 41-56:

Japan's International Orientation over the
Next Five Years

Published 18 December 1956

The attached validity study of NIE 41-56 was approved by the
Intelligence Board on 23 December 1958 (USIB-M-17, item 5 c).



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Colonel, USAF
Deputy Executive Secretary

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1. Over-all, NIE 41-56 has held up well. However, several developments of particular interest and importance were not foreseen.

2. Probably the most important of these, at least in the short run, has been Kishi's rise to power. His general policies and political vigor have produced several results at variance with NIE 41-56 judgments. For example, we estimated that Japan's efforts to attain a more independent posture and a position of equality with respect to the US would "probably lead to strains in the US-Japanese relationship". In fact, such strains have been kept at a minimum, largely because of Kishi's leadership.

3. Moreover we estimated that the conservatives, would "probably not press vigorously for rearmament, for more effective internal security laws, or for a stronger national police". However, Kishi has pressed vigorously for legislation to reduce communist influence in education and organized labor, and to increase the power of the national police to deal with strikes, demonstrations, and juvenile delinquency.

4. NIE 41-56 rated the growth of Socialist strength somewhat higher than has proved thus far to be the case.

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